

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 226218
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA:WSSMITH:YT
APPROVED BY ARA:VPVAKY
S/S-O - RCASTRODALE
-----126844 062341Z /70
O 062316Z SEP 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT HAVANA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 226218

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR LANE FROM VAKY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SHUM, CU

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: A) HAVANA 2670 B) SMITH-LANE CONVERSATION OF SEPT 6

1. WE APPRECIATE USINT'S PROBLEMS, BUT AS INDICATED IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH SMITH, THERE ARE COMPELLING REASONS TO GO AHEAD WITH SEPT 11 ARRIVAL DATE. SCREENING TEAM WILL ENDEAVOR TO IMPOSE UPON YOU AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE AND TO KEEP THEIR OPERATION FROM INTERFERING WITH PROCESSING OF DUAL NATIONALS. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO GO AHEAD IN INFORMING APPROPRIATE CUBAN AUTHORITIES OF ARRIVAL. FYI. CUBAN INTERESTS SECTION TODAY ISSUED VISAS TO GROUP IN LESS THAN AN HOUR AND HAS PROBABLY ALREADY INFORMED MINREX OF ETA. END FYI.

2. PLEASE ALSO INDICATE THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS
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TO CUBAN OFFICIALS HANDLING ISSUE THAT SCREENING GROUP WOULD HOPE TO INTERVIEW ABOUT SIXTEEN PEOPLE A DAY, DEPENDING UPON SIZE OF FAMILY GROUPS. WE ASSUME CUBAN AUTHORITIES WILL NOTIFY THE 78 ON THE FIRST LIST AND SET UP INTERVIEW SCHEDULES FOR THEM.

3. WE APPRECIATE PROBLEM POSED BY EX-PRISONERS DEMANDING

TO BE INTERVIEWED IMMEDIATELY BY SCREENING GROUP. WE HAVE NO BETTER ANSWER THAN ONE YOU ALREADY MAKING TO THEM, I.E. THAT UNTIL THEY REQUESTED BY CUBAN AUTHORITIES TO APPEAR AT USINT FOR INTERVIEW, THEY SIMPLY DAMAGE THEIR CHANCES OF EVENTUAL INCLUSION BY INSISTING ON TALKING TO TEAM NOW. IF THEY WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE ON LISTS, THEY SHOULD ADDRESS CUBAN AUTHORITIES, NOT USINT.

4. ATLANTIC RATHER THAN POMPAÑO MAY FLY CHARTER, BUT WE ASSUME WOULD HANDLE CLEARANCES DIRECTLY WITH CUBANS. WE WILL ADVISE.

CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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